

House Resolution 615

By: Representatives Jones of the 47th, Kelley of the 16th, England of the 116th, Glanton of the 75th, Gambill of the 15th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Thomas Carlton Lewis on his retirement from Georgia State University; and
- 2 for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis was born in Union Point, Georgia, and learned from his
- 4 mother, Eleanor, and father, Carlton Lewis, the importance of public service; and

- 5 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his long association with government and politics
- 6 as a college student who interned in Washington, D.C., for the late Senator Richard Russell;
- 7 and

- 8 WHEREAS, following graduation from Georgia Southern University in 1973, he embarked
- 9 on a professional career that included field work on the campaign of presidential candidate
- 10 Jimmy Carter; and

- 11 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his career in state government as Executive
- 12 Director of the Georgia Franchise Practices Commission from 1974 to 1978; and

- 13 WHEREAS, from 1978 to 1983, he served as Executive Vice President of the Bartow County
- 14 Chamber of Commerce; and

- 15 WHEREAS, during his time with the Chamber of Commerce, he met and began a lifelong
- 16 friendship with a state legislator from Cartersville, Joe Frank Harris, and his wife, Elizabeth;
- 17 and

- 18 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis would join the gubernatorial campaign of Joe Frank
- 19 Harris serving as one of his most trusted advisors, joining the Governor's Administration in
- 20 1983 as Executive Assistant, and serving as Chief of Staff from 1986 to 1991; and

21 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his career with Georgia State University in 1991
22 representing the university in the local, state, and federal arenas advancing to Senior Vice
23 President for External Affairs and Senior Advisor to the President; and

24 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis has walked the halls of this Capitol for over 40 years,
25 the last 28 years advocating for students, faculty, and staff at Georgia State University and
26 the entire higher education community; and

27 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis has served under seven governors, six chancellors, and
28 four university presidents, and is considered the "Dean" of higher education advocates; and

29 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis is an alum of Leadership Georgia and serves on the
30 Board of Directors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Century Bank of Georgia, the
31 Rollins Child Development Center, and Zell Miller Institute, and serves as Chairman of the
32 State Charter School Commission; and

33 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis is retiring from Georgia State University to enjoy life
34 in Bartow County with Patty, his beautiful wife of 45 years; his three children, Wes, Ellen,
35 and Shannon, and their families; and especially, his five grandchildren, Weslie, Leighton,
36 Will, Nate, and Jacks.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 members of this body commend Thomas Carlton Lewis for his extraordinary career in public
39 service and thank him for his many years of service to the University System of Georgia.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
42 Thomas Carlton Lewis.